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AIRGRAM

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(454)

TO: Department of State

E.O.: NA

TAGS: SHUM AR

FROM: Amembassy Buenos Aires

DATE:

SUBJECT: Lists of Disappeared Persons

REF:

This message transmits for the Department's information and use eight recent lists of disappeared persons issued by human rights organizations and family groups. Allowing for overlaps, the lists together contain approximately 5,000 names. The names and data regarding the reported disappearances have been integrated into the Embassy's human rights data files, which now contain approximately 8,500 entries, of which about 7,000 are reports of disappearances. Embassy files, however, include names drawn from newspaper clippings, third hand reports, and other unverified--often unverifiable--sources.

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Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (PAHR)

An Assembly task force was established in 1977 to receive information from families with disappeared relatives. The task force's work was expanded in March/April 1978 and became the central part of a joint effort of the PAHR, League for the Rights of Man (Liga), and the Ecumenical Movement for Human Rights (MEDH) to collate the information then available to the three organizations into a single list for public presentation. During the development of a single list of disappearance cases, the three organizations developed criteria and a common format for gathering and evaluating disappearance case data. A final product of this effort was a list of some 3,507 disappearance cases published in "La Prensa" newspaper on May 17, 1978. A supplementary list with

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over 500 names was submitted to the Argentine government by the three organizations on July 28, 1978. (NOTE: Embassy has been told by different sources that the Ministry of Interior has between over 5,000 to over 7,000 family disappearance reports.)

The Assembly's task force working with information supplied by the Liga and MEDH issued in early January 1979 an updated and revised list of 4,381 disappearance cases (attachment 1). This list reflects the information available to the PAHR as of November 30, 1978. A supplemental list containing an additional 116 disappearance cases was prepared in mid-January 1979 (attachment 2). This supplement includes all information available as of January 1, 1979.

PAHR's statistical task force is producing a "hard list" of disappearance cases for the use of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission during its May 29-June 6, 1979 visit to Argentina.

Family Members of the Disappeared and Detained

Familiares de Desaparecidos and Detenidos (FDD) which receives office space and support from the Liga (an old line Argentine Communist Party organization) has prepared a list of approximately 4,500 "desaparecidos" similar to the PAHR's list (attachment 3). The criteria for inclusion of a case in the FDD and PAHR lists is that a family member or friend has personally submitted the information of disappearance and attested to its validity. We estimate that only one to two percent of the entries differ between the FDD and PAHR lists, reflecting the fact that a family has contacted one organization and not the other recently. Neither organization includes names just from newspaper accounts or from unverified lists of disappeared persons in their compilations.

Familiares de Desaparecidos in Rosario

This regional organization of family members of disappeared persons published in late 1978 a mimeographed newsletter which contained the names of 65 disappearance cases which occurred in the greater Rosario area (attachment 4). Twenty of these cases (31%) were not previously reported in the Embassy's files.

Familiares de Desaparecidos de la Zone Norte de la Provincia Buenos Aires

This newly formed family organization ran a paid advertisement in "La Prensa" on December 23, 1978 listing the names of 109 disappearance cases (attachment 5). Thirty-three of these cases (30%) were not previously recorded in the Embassy's human rights data files.

Comision de Familiares de Desaparecidos de la Provincia de Cordoba

The Comision de Familiares de Desaparecidos de la Provincia de Cordoba published a paid advertisement in "La Prensa" on December 1, 1978 listing 245 disappearance cases (attachment 6). This human rights organization was founded in early 1978. Ten of the group's organizers were "abducted" in Cordoba in the austral spring of 1978 but reappeared under PEN decrees a short while later.

Mar del Plata Family Group

A group of family members from Mar del Plata took out an advertisement in "La Prensa" on December 23, 1978 captioned "Where are our Children?" (attachment 7). The advertisement listed 98 disappearance cases. Twenty-three (24%) of these cases were not previously recorded in the Embassy's files. This group meets each Thursday at a central plaza in Mar del Plata and Sunday afternoons at a local church to exchange information regarding disappearance cases.

Relatives from La Plata, Berisso and Ensenada

Eleven family members took out an advertisement in a major regional paper, "El Dia", on November 21, 1978 (attachment 8). The ad listed 193 missing persons. Sixty-five of these cases (34%) were not previously recorded in the Embassy's files.

Familiares de Desaparecidos de Tucuman

The Embassy received a visit from three mothers from this Tucuman family organization in November, 1978. The mothers presented us a faint copy of a handwritten list of 160 disappearance cases. 108 of these cases (68%) were not

previously recorded in the Embassy's human rights data files. The mothers stated that there were about 330 disappearance cases reported to their group from the entire Province of Tucuman.

CASTRO

Attachments:
1. PAHR list
2. PAHR supplement
3. FDD list
4. Rosario Group's list
5. Buenos Aires Province Group list
6. Cordoba Group's list
7. Mar del Plata Group's list
   La Plata, Berisso and Ensenada Group's list